

Message Text

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SUBJ: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS

REF: BUDAPEST A-16 AND BUDAPEST A-48

1. AS REPORTED IN ITS FY-1976/1977 CU PROGRAM PROPOSAL AND IN ITS FY-1975 CU PROGRAM ASSESSMENT, THE EMBASSY ATTRIBUTES THE SUCCESSFUL EXPANSION IN SIZE AND SCOPE OF ITS EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOH OF THE CONCEPT OF MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS, AN ACCEPTANCE IN LARGE MEASURE ENGENDERED BY THE CONSISTENTLY HIGH QUALITY OF THE PROJECTS THEMSELVES. TO DATE THE HUNGARIANS HAVE NOMINATED A CANDIDATE FOR EVERY PROJECT OFFERED TO THEM.

2. TWO RECENT EVENTS UNDERScore THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF THE PROGRAM AND GENUINE INTEREST AMONG HUNGARIANS IN CONTINUED PARTICIPATION. THE FIRST EVENT CENTERS AROUND THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS' NOMINATION FOR THE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS. DEADLINES SET FOR THIS PROGRAM

GAVE THE ICR RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME TO DETERMINE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION AMONG ENERGY INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONALS AND TO SELECT A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.

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AS THE EMBASSY'S DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING APPROACHED,

THE PAO WAS CALLED BY THE PARTICIPANT IN LAST YEAR'S ENERGY PROJECT WHO STRESSED THAT HIS INSTITUTE WAS VERY EAGER TO HAVE HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION. SHOULD THE ICR FAIL TO MEET THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING A CANDIDATE, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT PREVENT SOMEONE FROM ATTENDING THE PROGRAM. SIMILARLY THE APAO RECEIVED THREE CALLS IN THE COURSE OF A WEEK FROM THE ICR EXPLAINING THAT THEY DEFINITELY INTENDED TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION AND WERE WORKING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO PROCESS IT. LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROJECT HAD CONVINCED BOTH ENERGY PROFESSIONALS AND THE ICR OF THE VALUE OF THE PROGRAM AND BOTH GROUPS WERE DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE THE GRANT.

3. A DIFFERENT SITUATION OCCURRED WITH THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY JOURNALIST PROJECT. THE FY-1975 PARTICIPANT, A COMPETENT BUT STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG, MEDIUM-RANKING JOURNALIST, REPORTED ON THE PROGRAM IN SUCH GLOWING TERMS THAT THE ICR NOT ONLY SUBMITTED A CANDIDATE AGAIN FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM, BUT IT OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND TO HUNGARY'S MOST IMPORTANT DAILY, THE PARTY PAPER NEPSZABADSAG. IT IN TURN CHOSE TO NOMINATE ONE OF ITS MOST PROMISING AND ABLE JOURNALISTS, A MAN LIKELY TO BECOME DEPUTY EDITOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE JOURNALIST IN QUESTION HAD PERSONAL COMMITMENTS WHICH MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN 1975, BUT NEPSZABADSAG CONSIDERED THE PROGRAM IMPORTANT ENOUGH PROFESSIONALLY AS PART OF GROOMING HIM FOR A SENIOR POSITION THAT IT INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT THE OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR.

4. THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF FY-1975 MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL FACTOR FOR GROWING ACCEPTANCE AND INCREASED INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM. IT HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR EXPANDING EXCHANGES TO INDIVIDUAL IV GRANTS IN FY'76. THE POST EXPECTS TO SEE MORE AND MORE OF THIS TYPE OF REACTION AS IT OFFERS BOTH REPEATED AND NEW PROGRAMS IN FY-1976. MOREOVER, THE SUCCESS OF THE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS

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NOT ONLY ENABLED THE POST TO EXPAND ITS EXCHANGES, BUT HAS RESULTED IN MANY GRANTS TO HUNGARIANS IN KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN A VARIETY OF IMPORTANT FIELDS.

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